<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please replace claims 50, 58, 59, 60, 61 with the following claims 50, 58, 59, 60 and 61, respectively:

50. (once amended) A method, comprising:

a) initiating a call to a remote telephone interface at a first telephone interface;

b) generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in response to said initiating;

c) generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface and establishing a connection toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network that resides between said second telephone interface and said remote telephone interface, said generating an off hook signal and said establishing a connection both a consequence of said generating a first ring signal;

d) generating a second ring signal at said remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said second ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a second ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of said establishing a connection;

e) ceasing said second ring signal and sending a message through said packet data network toward said second telephone interface, said ceasing said second ring signal and said sending a message both a consequence of said timer having expired; and

f) ceasing said off hook signal and asserting an on hook signal at said second telephone interface, said ceasing said off hook signal and said asserting said on hook signal both a consequence of said sending a message.

58. (once amended) The method of claim 50 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

59. (once amended) The method of claim 50 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

60. (once amended) The method of claim 50 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

61. (once amended) The method of claim 50 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

Please add new claims 72 through 99.

72. (new) A network arrangement, comprising:

      a) means for initiating a call to a remote telephone interface at a first telephone interface;

      b) means for generating a first ring signal at a second telephone interface in response to said initiating;

      c) means for generating an off hook signal at said second telephone interface and establishing a connection toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network that resides between said second telephone interface and said remote telephone interface, said generating an off hook signal and said establishing a connection both a consequence of said generating a first ring signal;

      d) means for generating a second ring signal at said remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said second ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a second ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of said establishing a connection;

      e) means for ceasing said second ring signal and sending a message through said packet data network toward said second telephone

interface, said ceasing said second ring signal and said sending a message both a consequence of said timer having expired; and

f) means for ceasing said off hook signal and asserting an on hook signal at said second telephone interface, said ceasing said off hook signal and said asserting said on hook signal both a consequence of said sending a message.

73. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said timer lasts within a range of 2 to 3 minutes inclusive.

74. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said first telephone interface resides at a PBX.

75. (new) The network arrangement of claim 74 wherein said second telephone interface resides at a second PBX.

76. (new) The network arrangement of claim 74 wherein said second telephone interface resides at a Central Office (CO).

77. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said first telephone interface resides at a Central Office (CO).

78. (new) The network arrangement of claim 77 wherein said second telephone interface resides at a second PBX.

79. (new) The network arrangement of claim 77 wherein said second telephone interface resides at a Central Office (CO).

80. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

81. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

82. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

83. (new) The network arrangement of claim 72 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

84. (new) A networking system, comprising:
   a) a telephone interface;
   b) a packet data network interface; and,
   c) a voice-over-packet control system that generates a ring signal at said telephone interface and starts a timer that measures a time period over which said ring signal is applied at said telephone interface, said generating a ring signal and said starting a timer both responsive to a connection that was established to said system through said packet data network interface in order to place a call through said telephone interface.

85. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said voice-over-packet control system ceases said ring signal as a consequence of said timer having expired.

86. (new) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein said voice-over-packet control system sends a message through said packet data network interface toward a device that initiated said call as a consequence of said timer having expired.

87. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said timer lasts within a range of 2 to 3 minutes inclusive.

88. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said packet data network interface interfaces to an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

89. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said packet data network interface interfaces to a Frame Relay network.

90. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said packet data network interface interfaces to a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

91. (new) The apparatus of claim 84 wherein said packet data network interface interfaces to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

92. (new) A method, comprising:

a) generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a timer that measures a time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a ring signal and said starting a timer both a consequence of a connection that was established toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network in order to place a call through said remote telephone interface;

b) ceasing said ring signal and sending a message in response to said timer expiring, said sending a message further comprising sending said message over said packet data network to a system that initiated said connection, said system having initiated said connection in response to a ring signal observed at a telephone interface maintained by said system; and

c) creating an "on-hook" signal at said telephone interface maintained by said system.

93. (new) The method of claim 92 further wherein said timer lasts within a range of 2 to 3 minutes inclusive.

94. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

95. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said packet data network further comprises a Frame Relay network.

96. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said packet data network further comprises a High level Data Link Control (HDLC) network.

97. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said packet data network further comprises an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

98. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said remote telephone interface resides at a PBX.

99. (new) The method of claim 92 wherein said remote telephone interface reside at a central office (CO).